

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1, 4-5, and 8-10 were pending. Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 11-33 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 4-5, and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a). With this response, claim 1 is amended, claims 4-5 are canceled, new claims 34-38 are added, and no claims are withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 Over Zoromski

Claims 1, 4-5 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Zoromski, et al. (CA 2,278,867 A).

Independent claim 1, as currently amended, recites in part “An article...comprising: a surface fastening system...including...a second surface fastening element...wherein an unjoined portion of the second fastening element is unjoined from an underlying structure of the article, the unjoined portion including an unjoined dimension Y extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the article, the unjoined dimension Y increasing from a laterally outboard edge of the unjoined portion to a laterally inboard edge of the unjoined portion.”

From the Applicant's review, the Zoromski reference does not appear to disclose a surface fastening system with a second surface fastening element with an “unjoined portion” as recited in claim 1, as currently amended. Thus, the Zoromski reference does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. As a result, the Zoromski reference does not anticipate claim 1, or the claims that depend therefrom. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 rejections from claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom.

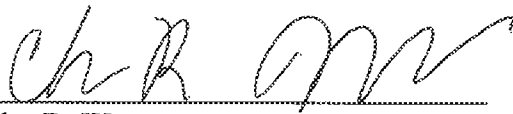
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Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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